

Message Text

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R 222046Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CP PENDLETON

FT CHAFFEE

INDIANTOWN GAP

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

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FOLLOWING REPEAT FR CIVIL COORDINATOR EGLIN AFB

DTG 211732Z AUG 75 ACTION INTER AGENCY TASK FORCE

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QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: REPATRIATION REQUESTS- SPONSORED REFUGEES

1. REFERENCE RED CROSS MESSAGE AUGUST 14, 1975, FROM WAITE/
BIGHENATTI TO ARC EGLIN WHICH RAISES ISSUE OF MAINTENANCE OF
REFUGEES AWAITING REPATRIATION CLEARANCES. EGLIN RED CROSS
INFORMED THAT SPONSORS, VOLAGS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES SHOULD
BE INVOLVED WHEN PROBLEMS EXIST RATHER THAN ARC, THAT UN HAS
NO RESOURCES AND THAT ARC WILL ENTER ONLY ON SPECIFIC CASE
BASIS WHEN NO RESOLUTION POSSIBLE ELSEWHERE.

2. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL SUCH CASES WHICH WE HAVE INSISTED
THAT VOLAGS RESOLVE. THESE WE HAVE VIEWED AS SPONSORSHIP
BREAKDOWNS WHICH VOLAGS MUST ADDRESS. EARLIER CASES WERE
IN FACT SPONSORSHIP FAILURES WHICH RESULTED IN REQUESTS FOR
REPATRIATION UNTIL NEW SPONSORSHIPS WERE ARRANGED. NOW,
HOWEVER, WE APPEAR TO HAVE CASES OF FIRM DESIRES TO

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REPATRIATE. VOLAG (CWS) HAS INTERCEDED IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS.

ALL AGREED THESE ARE NOT BREAKDOWNS, BUT RATHER GENUINE DESIRES FOR REPATRIATION. VOLAGS INSIST THERE IS NO WAY FOR THEM TO RESOLVE BY ARRANGING NEW SPONSORS. REFUGEES DO NOT WISH ANY FURTHER SPONSORSHIP. THEY ONLY WANT TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND HAVE FORMALLY PETITIONED TO DO SO. RED CROSS HAS INVESTIGATED AND CONFIRMED. VOLAG NOW BALKING AT CONTINUING EXPENSE FOR MAINTAINING THESE REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE REFUGEE CENTERS. THEY BELIEVE THEY MUST HAVE SOME RELIEF SINCE THEY HAVE NO FURTHER ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THEM.

3. IF WE INSIST VOLAGS CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THESE SPONSORED REFUGEES, IATF IS LIKELY TO FIND ITSELF IN SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH VOLAGS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ONLY OTHER SOLUTION WOULD SEEM TO BE RETURNING THE REFUGEES TO ONE OF THE REFUGEE CENTERS TO AWAIT REPATRIATION CLEARANCE. IF IATF DESIRES, WE CAN INSIST THAT VOLAG MUST UPHOLD ITS OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE TRIED RESETTLEMENT BUT NOW PREFER REPATRIATION. IN ANY EVENT, POLICY GUIDANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNQTE ROBINSON

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